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THEODORE HOOK.

Stories of the Greatest Practical Joker of His Day.

Of the list of geniuses the name of Theodore Hook is near the top. At sixteen he was making a big income and enjoying great popularity. His name was blazoned in the papers as a prodigy, his portraits were in the shop windows, and he had free admission to all theaters and other places of amusement. For years he was a social and literary lion. His last words were: "It is only to the grave that I must be carried. If my poor children were safe I would not care. I am suffering under a constant depression of spirits which no one who sees me in society dreams of."

Hook's practical jokes were the talk of the day. His intimates egged him on continually, and there was nothing he would stop at. One day they pointed out to him as an appropriate specimen for his museum a gilded eagle of enormous dimensions which had just been erected over a grocer's shop. A few weeks afterward while entertaining his coterie at dinner at one of the old taverns he ordered the "game" to be served. To the astonishment of the guests the waiter entered the room staggering under the burden of a dish of unusual size. On uncovering it there was produced the identical eagle which Hook as a practical joke had contrived to carry off. Merely for this sort of fun Hook used to pull off knockers and bell handles, carry away tradesmen's signs, overturn the boxes of sleeping janitors and do other devilment until he had a roomful of household attachments and street ornaments.

One night Hook was passing a great house where there was a reception of the swellest of the swells. Dinner had just been announced. He said to the friend accompanying him: "John, I'm going in here to spend the evening. Call for me at 11 o'clock." The friend was horrified. Said he in protest, "You do not know these grand people, and you are not an invited guest." "That's all right. Call for me at 11." Knocking at the door, he gave his hat confidently to the lackey and was ushered upstairs. Entering the drawing room, he affected at first to have discovered his mistake and poured such sallies of wit that the host and hostess actually pressed him to stay for dinner.

At 11 o'clock, when his friend called, not knowing whether he would find Hook at the reception or in the lockup, he was more than astounded on entering the drawing room to see Hook seated at the piano delivering some extempore poetry to a bevy of the fairest women in the gathering. Perceiving the entrance of this friend, the practical joker, who had not hitherto divulged his name, arose and said:

"I'm very much pleased with your fare,
Your cellar's as good as your cook;
My friend's Mr. Terry, the player,
And I'm Mr. Theodore Hook."

The king, being present and full of enjoyment, took a great fancy to Hook and immediately appointed him treasurer to the island of the Mauritius with a salary of $10,000 a year.—New York Press.

A Big Boiled Dinner.

Cooks in large hotels and boarding houses may think they get up meals on a big scale, but when it comes to wholesale cookery the little village of Liss, on the London and Southwestern railway, England, surpasses them all. At a barbecue held there some years ago an ox was boiled, not roasted, whole, and this is how it was done: A large hole was dug in the ground and lined with brick. Inside this a tank large enough to hold the ox was built. The carcass was then lowered into the tank, having first been placed in a case formed by heavy crossbars, to which chains were attached. Pulleys from a scaffolding above were used to raise and lower the ox. Many vegetables, such as carrots, onions, cabbages and potatoes, were boiled with the meat. The boiling required seven hours.

Not Quite Clear.

A well known clergyman of Boston was once talking to some friends with reference to the desirability of chronological coherence in ideas in the form of written statements, when he observed that there are times when this method becomes a trifle too suggestive.

"For instance," said the speaker, "I once heard a minister in New Hampshire make his usual Sunday morning announcements as follows:

"'The funeral of the late and much lamented sexton takes place on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

"'Thanksgiving services will be held in this chapel on Thursday morning at 11 o'clock.'"—Lippincott's.

A Changed Bird.

An Irishman who wasn't much of a hunter went out to hunt one day, and the first thing he saw to shoot at was a bluejay sitting saucily on the top of a fence. He blazed away at the bird and then walked over to pick it up. What he happened to find there was a dead frog, which he raised carefully at arm's length, looking at it with a puzzled air. Finally he remarked, "Well, begobs, but ye was a foine looking burd befur Oi blew ther fithers off o' yerse!"—Judge's Library.

Ridiculous.

"Among the Quakers," said Miss Wise, "I believe the men wear their hats in church."

"How ridiculous!" exclaimed Miss Gidday. "As if any one could possibly be interested in men's hats!"—Philadelphia Press.

The men in this country who begin by knowing it all generally wind up by asking the way home.—Atlanta Constitution.

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ANCIENT BOWS.

That of the Scythians Was in the Form of the Letter C.

While universally used by the ancients, the form of the bow varied with different nations. The Scythian bow was in the form of the letter C, and the bow of the Tartars, descendants of the Scythians, still keeps that shape.

The Greek bow was not more than three or four feet in length, but so stout and stiff that it required considerable strength and skill to use it. It is said that the first Greek bows were made from the horns of a species of goat, the bases being united by means of a metallic band. Afterward other material was used in their manufacture, but they still retained their original shape. These bows were too short to be of much use, and, comparatively speaking, but a small portion of the troops were armed with them.

The Romans carried the bow to Britain, where it at once obtained favor and during the middle ages was extensively used, forming an important element of the armies of that period.

The English archers were said to be the finest in the world, and their skill decided the battles of Creecy, Poitiers and Agincourt. The bows used were of two kinds—the long bow and the arbalest, or crossbow. The arbalest was made of steel or horn and was of such strength and stiffness that it was necessary to use some mechanical appliance to bend it and adjust the string. The arbalestiers carried a quiver with fifty arrows and were placed in the van of the battle.

Colds and Cologne.

Grip and colds, according to a French physician, will yield if met at the very beginning with a copious supply of the best cologne. Pour the cologne into a handkerchief rolled to a funnel and inhale the fumes steadily every two or three minutes. After a burning sensation has been experienced one may wait ten or fifteen minutes before taking another sniff. If the bad symptoms have not subsided after twelve hours of this remedy it shows that the malady was too far under way.

Closer to Nature.

We get closer to nature when we are creating, whether in art, in litgrature, in invention or in working at new and progressive ideas. We can feel our mind reach out into infinity and grasp and bring back something fresh, new, something never seen on this earth before.—Success Magazine.

Stood by His Theory.

Thales, the ancient philosopher, declared that there was no difference between life and death. "Why, then," cried one of those to whom the remark was made, "don't you put an end to your life?" "Because," was the reply, "there is no difference."

Comparatively.

Towne—Yes, my wife is able to dress on comparatively little money. Browne—Oh, come now! Comparatively little? Towne — I mean on little compared with what she thinks she ought to have.

Clear writers, like clear fountains, do not seem so deep as they are. The turbid look the most profound.—Landor.

Joseph Bonaparte.

Joseph Bonaparte fled to America after the hundred days and bought a home in Philadelphia, where he lived in winter, and a mansion in New Jersey, where he passed his summers. He was much liked in this country, but could not make up his mind to stay here, so returned to Europe, hoping to profit by the changes of government in France. He was always disappointed and found himself an unwelcome guest in every country save England. He finally secured permission to live in Italy and died in Florence in 1844.

There is a vast difference, says a wise philosopher, between wishing and winning. Many a good man has failed because he had his wishbone where his backbone ought to have been.

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